

Remarks:

The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are responsive to the Restriction Requirement dated April 21, 2006.

As of this filing, claims 1-33 remain pending in the application. The Examiner has, however, indicated that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

Species 1 printing method utilizing a plurality of printheads

Species 2 printing method utilizing a plurality of redundant printheads

The Examiner asserts that there is no generic claim. Applicants respectfully disagree, noting that Species 1 is entirely generic to Species 2. In particular, applicants note that Species 1 does not specify whether printheads are redundant or not redundant.

Applicants also note that the indicated species both reference use of "a plurality of printheads." Applicants' claims, however, do not uniformly recite plural printheads. In fact, applicants' originally-filed claims recite one or more printheads. Accordingly, as understood, all of applicants' originally-filed claims read on Species 1.

In view of the foregoing, applicants hereby elect Species 1, with traverse. In particular, applicants traverse the Examiner's Indication that there are no generic claims. Applicants also traverse the Examiner's suggestion that applicants' claims recite only plural printheads.

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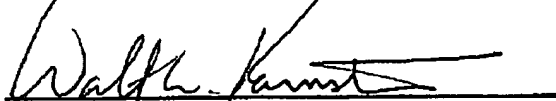
Regarding Species 2, applicants note that only claim 21 makes any reference to "redundant printheads." Claim 32 specifies "image forming devices with substantially redundant function." In the interest of furthering prosecution on the merits, applicants have amended claims 21 and 32 to remove any use of "redundant."

As amended, all claims read on Species 1. Accordingly, as understood, all claims remain pending in the present application.

If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

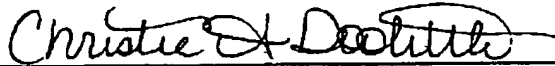
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner L. Nguyen, Group Art Unit 2861, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on May 22, 2006.



Christie A. Doolittle

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